



## **ABERDEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

### **SUMMARY OF NOTES**

**MARCH 28, 2018**

Attending Members: Tom Fidler, Dan Lambros, Mitchel Jones, Terell Boothe, Don Curry, Chuck Jacobs, Steve Horne

Others in Attendance: Chief Henry Trabert, Aberdeen Police Department Chief; Randy Robertson, City Manager; Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development, Bonnie Barresi, Harford County Department of Community and Economic Development

- Welcome and Opening Remarks Tom Fidler, Chairman
- Treasurer's Report Chuck Jacobs, Treasurer

Mr. Chuck Jacobs reported that there is \$9,114 in the checking account and \$1,736 in the CD

- Marketing/ Retail Recruitment Strategy
  1. Mr. Tom Fidler informed the committee of the procured sale for 45 North Philadelphia Boulevard. The Council approved the ordinance for disposal of City owned property at Monday, March 26, 2018 Council Meeting.
  2. Mr. Fidler informed the Commission of a leased out for execution to Texas Roadhouse, which will take a parcel from the Merritt Properties, and commit to a \$1.86 million investment.
  3. Starbucks is also working its way through to the construction phase, which should start August 16, 2018.
  4. Mr. Fidler stated Chili's had interest in a parcel next to Starbucks.
  5. In addition, Merritt Properties is considering ground floor retail, and may have two 10,000 square feet prospects related to cyber security.
  6. WAGE Connection was originally slated to move out of it's current location to combine offices with Bel Air, but was convinced to push back the date of movement for another year, and will put out an RFP for a 25,000 to 30,000 square foot building.
  7. Mr. Fidler informed the Commission of other retail prospects including Moes, Chipotle, and an eyelash beauty bar.

- Update from the Department of Planning and Community Development
  1. Mrs. Phyllis Grover stated the Development Code Amendments were presented at the Monday, March 26, 2018 Council meeting, where 1 member favored, but no negative comments were mentioned. The Council is looking to adopt the Development Code on the April 9, 2018 Council Meeting.
  2. Mrs. Grover mentioned to the Commission the sign for Prost is in front of 102 North Rogers Street, and is set to open April 2019. There have been interior improvements, and the Council approved the \$35,000 façade improvement on Monday, March 26 for windows, doors, painting, and signage.
  3. In addition, the Council approved the façade Improvement for Landmark Dental, 22 North Philadelphia Boulevard for signage and landscaping improvements.
  4. Mrs. Grover informed the Commission of the APG Discovery Center, which there are talks for MTA to take over the 1,200 square foot lease space and sublet to the City, which would then sublease to the Discovery Center.
  5. Mrs. Grover informed the Commission there are updates to both the Welcome Brochure and Business Resource Guide due to updates in the incentive packages. Mrs. Grover is requesting funds from the Aberdeen Economic Development Commission to pay for both the Welcome Brochure and Business Incentive Guide.
  6. Ms. Stefani Spector, Aberdeen Economic Development Assistant informed the Commission members of the IT and Cyber Security Career Fair taking place April 20 at 44 North Parke Street from 12:00p.m. until 4:00p.m. There are now 30 contractors signed up and 102 attendees. Ms. Spector was seeking volunteers from the Aberdeen Economic Development Commission to help set up at 10:00a.m. It was recommended to Ms. Spector by Mr. Fidler to release an official Press Release on the event, which will be done by Ms. Spector.
- Harford County Department of Community and Economic Development
  1. Ms. Bonnie Barresi updated the Committee on the newly adopted incentive programs to offer to Route 40 businesses. Ms. Barresi stated there is a revitalization loan program is a 0% interest loan of up to \$50,000 for façade improvements, and may extend to internal improvements as well. The total loan fund is \$2.6 million in the loan bucket, and Ms. Barresi stated she hopes to get \$250,000 worth of loans for businesses fronting Route 40. She stated the loans were also available to businesses that leased the property with the permission of the owner or the lease agreement.
  2. The next incentive Ms. Barresi presented was the Entrepreneurial Growth Loan that is a 5-year loan up to \$50,000 to businesses that do not qualify for traditional bank loans. The County wishes to be a secondary lender on that loan.
  3. There is in addition, a fixed asset loan which is up to \$200,000 to purchase property, and can go to a 20-year loan, but typically a 10-year loan. Ms. Barresi stated if a loan is granted that goes over \$50,000, the decision will go to Council from the Committee in which a series of meeting, one closed, and one public will take place.
  4. Ms. Barresi presented the Technical Assistance Grant available through the County, which goes up to \$5,000. The grant is two phased from July 1 to the middle of May, in which the first phase is from July 1 to October, and the second phase is October to May.

5. The last loan Ms. Barresi presented was the Tech Attraction Loan which offers a 0% loan as long as the business signs a three-year lease and has at least 3 full-time employees.

Next EDC Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 8:00a.m.